

no one should, in effect, comment on or interfere with any internal affair of any other nation. And you heard him refer to American-led NATO aggression in the Balkans.

And so I responded very vigorously about Bosnia, about Kosovo. And the point I made was, when I was very personally complimentary of him is, when he stood up on that tank to save Russian democracy, suppose he hadn't prevailed. Suppose the Russian military had taken him down off the tank, thrown him in jail, and announced they were going to execute him.

I would hope that the entire world represented around that table, that OSCE table today, would have gone into an absolute uproar of outrage about it and would have saved his life and helped to restore democracy. That's the point I was trying to make, that there are times in the world we live in today when we are forced to make judgments about things that happen within the borders of other countries because they have an impact beyond their borders and because they violate internationally accepted norms of human rights. That's what happened in Bosnia; that's what happened in Kosovo. I think I did the right thing. And I hope it registered on the Russians, and I hope we're going to make some progress. I think we are.

I'll see you all some more in the next day or two, but I've got to go to this lunch.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:10 p.m. at the Ciragan Palace.

### **Statement on the Northern Ireland Peace Process**

*November 18, 1999*

The parties in Northern Ireland, working with George Mitchell, have taken a powerful step toward lasting peace. I warmly welcome Senator Mitchell's final report and support his conclusions fully. We should all take heart from the fact that the parties have strongly reaffirmed their commitment to the Good Friday accord. In a spirit of unprecedented mutual understanding, they have addressed issues of deep concern to one another. Together, they have shaped the outlines of the

way ahead, as described by Senator Mitchell today. I urge the parties to maintain this level of dialog with each other and with the public at large in the days ahead and to proceed with rapid implementation of the agreement. Once again, I want to express my deepest appreciation to Senator Mitchell for his dedication to bringing peace to Northern Ireland.

### **Statement on Assistance for Southeast Europe**

*November 18, 1999*

I am pleased that yesterday in Brussels the international community pledged over \$1 billion in new assistance to consolidate peace and promote economic recovery in Kosovo. I am particularly pleased that our European partners committed the lion's share of this amount, with the European Commission and EU members together pledging over three-quarters of a billion dollars and additional pledges from other European states.

These contributions will not only provide a significant boost to economic revitalization and reconstruction but also help to fund public administration, establish a civil emergency service corps, strengthen public security and the rule of law, promote market reforms, and encourage private investment. We did our part by announcing plans to provide \$157 million for Kosovo, pending final action on the budget before Congress.

Today at the OSCE summit in Istanbul, Europe demonstrated its strong leadership in support of recovery and stabilization throughout southeast Europe. I welcome European Commission President Prodi's intention to have the EC provide nearly 12 billion euros (approximately \$12.5 billion) of assistance to the region during 2000–2006. Such a substantial package will create tremendous opportunities for those countries and affirm in the strongest terms European support for their transformation. We are continuing our assistance programs to encourage political and economic reform and advance the region's integration with the rest of Europe.

**Proclamation 7251—National Great American Smokeout Day, 1999**

*November 18, 1999*

*By the President of the United States of America*

**A Proclamation**

Tobacco use continues to be the leading preventable cause of death and disease in the United States, costing more than 400,000 lives and \$50 billion in medical expenses each year. Some 3,000 Americans under the age of 18 become regular smokers every day, and we know that at least 1,000 of these new smokers will die prematurely from a tobacco-related disease. As caring adults and responsible citizens, we must do all we can to keep another generation of Americans from succumbing to the lure of tobacco. Each year, the Great American Smokeout provides people across our Nation with an opportunity to stand united in our efforts to help smokers quit and to convince our fellow citizens who don't smoke that they should not start.

Some positive statistics reinforce this message. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, each year an estimated 1.2 million adult smokers successfully quit smoking—permanently. Smokers who quit before age 50 substantially increase their expected lifespan, compared with those who continue smoking after they turn 50. Former smokers also reduce their risk for coronary heart disease, cardiovascular disease, lung cancer, emphysema, and stroke.

My Administration has worked hard to identify the best practices for preventing tobacco use among our young people and encouraging those who do smoke to quit. I have asked the Congress to discourage young people from smoking by funding important health programs and raising the price of cigarettes. I have also urged the States to invest a portion of the substantial funds they acquired in last year's settlement with tobacco companies in programs that help reduce youth smoking while not abandoning tobacco farmers and their communities.

During this 23rd Great American Smokeout, I encourage all Americans to create a healthy, tobacco-free environment for themselves, their children, and their fellow

citizens. I also ask that part of this special day be spent engaging youth in discussions about the dangers of tobacco use, teaching them how to establish healthy lifestyles, and helping them to develop effective measures for becoming or remaining tobacco-free.

**Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton,** President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 18, 1999, as National Great American Smokeout Day. I call upon all Americans to join together in an effort to educate our children about the dangers of tobacco use, and I urge both smokers and nonsmokers to take this opportunity to practice a healthy lifestyle that sets a positive example for young people.

**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand this eighteenth day of November, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fourth.

**William J. Clinton**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., November 22, 1999]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on November 23.

**Proclamation 7252—National Farm-City Week, 1999**

*November 18, 1999*

*By the President of the United States of America*

**A Proclamation**

As we gather with family and friends to celebrate Thanksgiving and to express our gratitude for the many blessings bestowed on ourselves and our Nation, we must also give thanks for the special relationship between America's farms and cities—a relationship that has strengthened our economy and helped to sustain people across America and around the world.

Throughout our Nation's history, America's farmers and ranchers have provided us with an abundant, affordable supply of food and fiber. As we prepare to enter the 21st